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HOWARD UNIVERSITY RECORD

The Semi-Centennial of Howard University



HOWARD UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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OUR SEMI-CENTENNIAL

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HOWARD UNIVERSITY is approaching the close of her first half century with profound gratitude for the lives of the devoted men who laid the foundation of the institution and of the others who built upon the foundation the structure which exists today. She recognizes with deep appreciation the breadth and vision of the founders who ignored prejudices and aimed to realize high educational ideals. It was wonderful for them to plan such privileges for those who had never had the privilege of getting any education, much less of getting the higher education. They set about the task as if there could never be any question as to the right or expediency of the undertaking. They wished to provide for all men and women the privileges which they themselves had enjoyed. No institution was ever founded with purer, loftier motives.

The results have proved these men to have been correct in their judgment as to the need they sought to meet, wise as to the place in which to carry out their plans, and intensely human in setting no limits for the work they were undertaking. It is significant that the institution was founded "for the education of youth." The founders meant just what they said. The "education" was to be as high as that which could ever be had anywhere else, and the "youth" of all lands and races were to be unhindered in entering and studying here.

Howard University wishes to express her thankfulness for the chance to live in the spirit of her founders. She wishes to be true

to them at all times and in all kinds of ways. She looks forward to her coming half century with great anticipation. She prays that untold power and unsuspected usefulness may be hers at her Centennial.

Every officer, teacher and student of Howard University should see and feel that this Semi-Centennial will give an opportunity for greatly enlarged service to the institution by taking hold gladly of all plans for the celebration. The plans which are yet to be adopted will need a great amount of voluntary help in carrying them through. If wisely done the University will be deeply affected for good as it begins its second half century. Every one who helps in any way may take pride in the fact that by so doing a share is had in bringing in the days of the "Greater Howard."

The men who founded the University held six "preliminary meetings" before getting the charter which was approved and signed March 2, 1867. The "minutes" of the first and second of these meetings are printed below in full together with extracts from some of the other four. The Charter is given in full and after that the minutes of the first meeting of the incorporators under the charter.

PRELIMINARY MEETINGS

Minutes of first meeting, relating to an institution for training preachers (colored) with a view to service among the Freedmen.

Washington, D. C., Tuesday Evening,
November 20th., 1866

By invitation of H. A. Brewster, Esq., a meeting was held at his house No.—K Street for the purpose of considering missionary interests as related to the prerogatives and responsibilities of the First Congregational Church, and, if found expedient, to devise ways and means for the promotion of the same.

Present, Dr. C. B. Boynton	J. B. Hutchinson, Esq.
Dea. D. H. Bliss	R. H. Stevens, Esq.
H. A. Brewster, Esq.	E. M. Cushman
Genl. O. O. Howard	Rev. D. B. Nichols
Rev. B. F. Morris	Dr. H. Barber

Prayer was offered by Dr. Boynton. Brother Brewster then stated in general terms the purpose which moved the call of the meeting, and invited an expression of views or plans of operation.

Whereupon, by request of Dr. Boynton, Rev. B. F. Morris, as the result of reflection and consultation with other brethren, set forth the plan of a Theological Seminary having in view the training of colored men for the ministry.

Rev. D. B. Nichols followed confirming the same view, with statements in detail relating to the practicability of the said plan. All of which was deemed eminently fit and opportune by every one present.

An organization was then proposed and H. A. Brewster, Esq., was elected Chairman and E. M. Cushman, Scribe.

On motion of Rev. D. B. Nichols the name of "Howard Theological Seminary" was unanimously adopted for the proposed institution.

On motion of Dr. Boynton the meeting then proceeded to the election of a Board of Trustees, and the following named gentlemen were elected.

Major General O. O. Howard

Rev. D. B. Nichols

Dr. C. B. Boynton

Rev. B. F. Morris

Dr. H. Barber

Hon. B. C. Cook

Hon. Sam. C. Pomeroy

H. A. Brewster, Esq.

J. B. Hutchinson, Esq.

Hon. Henry Wilson

R. H. Stevens, Esq.

On motion the following were elected a Committee on organization, viz: Rev. Dr. C. B. Boynton, Chairman, Rev. B. F. Morris, and Rev. D. B. Nichols.

On motion of Dr. Barber it was voted that when the meeting adjourn it be to meet again in two weeks at the same place.

Sundry remarks in regard to the proposed enterprise and labor for Freedmen were made by Brother Morris and others.

By request General Howard gave an account, in brief, of his late visit North in behalf of our Church Building Fund, resulting in most grateful success.

Also General Howard proffered to erect a suitable building for the Seminary, providing a proper lot could be provided. Whereupon Brother Brewster guaranteed a lot.

In regard to this meeting it may be remarked that the movings and guidance of the Holy Spirit seemed to be plainly recognized, and that every consideration and procedure was characterized by a most profound sense of christian obligation, and privilege, especially in view of the Southern Harvest-field. All for Christ's sake.

After prayer by General Howard adjourned.

Attest, (signed), E. M. Cushman,

Secretary.

MINUTES, SECOND MEETING OF THE HOWARD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

At an adjourned meeting of Trustees and friends of the Howard Theological Seminary held at the house of H. A. Brewster on Tuesday evening, December 4, 1866, H. A. Brewster, Esq., was called to the chair and H. Barber was appointed secretary.

After remarks by Dr. Boynton and Rev. Mr. Morris, the report of the Committee on a plan of operations was submitted by Mr. Nichols.

Dr. Boynton moved the reception of the report. Carried.

On motion of Mr. Nichols the name adopted at a previous meeting was changed to "The Howard Normal and Theological Institute for the Education of Teachers and Preachers."

Senator Pomeroy submitted some very appropriate remarks upon the nature and scope of the enterprise. Dr. Boynton and Genl. Howard followed upon the same subject.

Dr. Boynton moved the adoption of the preamble and resolutions embodied in the report of the Committee. Carried.

The following committees were then elected.

Finance: J. B. Johnson, Brewster, and Finney.

Buildings and Grounds: Howard, Pomeroy, and Barber.

Library: Nichols, Morris, and Ketchum.

On motion of B. F. Morris the meeting adjourned for two weeks.

EXTRACTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING
RELATING TO INSTITUTION FOR PREACHERS AND
TEACHERS FOR FREEDMEN, DECEMBER 18, 1866

* * *

After further remarks by Genl. Howard, Dr. Boynton, Rev. B. F. Morris and Dr. S. L. Loomis upon the report of Committee on Buildings and Grounds it was moved by Mr. Morris and voted that said Committee be authorized to purchase the property located near the terminus of Seventh Street Railroad North, for purposes, and as proposed by, report of Committee.

On motion a Committee of three consisting of Hon. Sam. C. Pomeroy, Hon. Henry Wilson, and Hon. B. C. Cook was appointed to obtain a charter.

* * *

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF FOURTH MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES, HOWARD UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 8, 1867

* * *

Upon statement of Genl. Balloch in regard to purchase and lease of property and on motion of J. B. Johnson, Esq., J. B. Hutchinson, Treasurer, was authorized to receive the said property in behalf of the Board of Trustees providing Maj. Genl. Howard may deem the same expedient or desirable.

After remarks by Genl. C. H. Howard, Dr. Boynton and H. A. Brewster, Esq. and on motion of Rev. D. B. Nichols, the name of the institution was changed from "Howard Normal and Theological Institute" to "Howard University" subject to the opinion of the Law Committee.

On motion of Dr. Loomis a Committee of three was appointed to consider a plan for a Medical Department and report at a future meeting. The chair appointed Dr. S. L. Loomis, Dr. H. Barber, and Rev. D. B. Nichols said Committee.

After remarks setting forth its importance to the freedmen, by, and on motion of Genl. C. H. Howard, a committee of three was appointed to consider and report a plan for a Law Department.

The Chair appointed Genl. C. H. Howard, Professor Bascom, and Mr. Finney said Committee.

* * *

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF SIXTH MEETING OF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY
JANUARY 29, 1867

* * *

Genl. O. O. Howard then read the bill incorporating Howard University as introduced in the U. S. Senate, January 1867, by Hon. Henry Wilson with suggestions that it be revised.

On motion of D. B. Nichols, Dr. Boynton, Genl. O. O. Howard, and Hon. Henry Wilson were appointed a Committee to revise said bill and duly present it to Congress.

The question whether provision by the charter shall be made for the admission of females was freely and with lively interest discussed pro and con, the prevailing sentiment being that no distinction should be made.

* * *

ACT OF INCORPORATION OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY

An Act to incorporate "The Howard University," in the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled.

Section 1. That there be established, and is hereby established, in the District of Columbia, a University for the education of youth in the liberal arts and sciences, under the name, style, and title of "The Howard University."

Section 2. *And be it further enacted*, That Samuel C. Pomeroy, Charles B. Boynton, Oliver O. Howard, Burton C. Cook, Charles H. Howard, James B. Hutchinson, Henry A. Brewster, Benjamin F. Morris, Danforth B. Nichols, William G. Finney, Roswell H. Stephens, E. M. Cushman, Hiram Barber, E. W. Robinson, W. F. Bascom, James B. Johnson, and Silas L. Loomis be, and they are hereby declared to be, a body politic and corporate, with perpetual succession in deed or in law to all intents and purposes whatsoever, by the name, style, and title of "Howard University," by which name and title they and their successors shall be competent, at law and in equity, to take to themselves

and their successors, for the use of said University, any estate whatsoever in any messuage, land, tenements, hereditaments, goods, chattels, moneys, and other effects, by gift, devise, grant, donation, bargain, sale, conveyance, assurance or will; and the same to grant, bargain, sell, transfer, assign, convey, assure, demise, declare to use and farm let, and to place out on interest, for the use of said University, in such manner as to them, or a majority of them, shall be deemed most beneficial to said institution; and to receive the same, their rents, issues and profits, income and interest, and to apply the same for the proper use and benefit of said University; and by the same name to sue and be sued, to implead and to be impleaded, in any courts of law and equity, in all manner of suits, actions, and proceedings whatsoever, and generally by and in the same name to do and transact all and every the business touching or concerning the premises: *Provided*, That the same do not exceed the value of fifty thousand dollars net annual income, over and above and exclusive of the receipts for the education and support of the students of said University.

Section 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the first meeting of said corporation shall be holden at the time and place at which, a majority of the persons herein above named shall assemble for that purpose; and six day's notice shall be given each of said corporators, at which meeting said corporators may enact By-Laws not inconsistent with the laws of the United States, regulating the government of the corporation.

Section 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the government of the University shall be vested in a Board of Trustees of not less than thirteen members, who shall be elected by the corporators at their first meeting. Said Board of Trustees shall have perpetual succession in deed or in law, and in them shall be vested the power herinbefore granted to the corporation. They shall adopt a common seal, which they may alter at pleasure, under and by which all deeds, diplomas, and acts of the University shall pass and be authenticated. They shall elect a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Treasurer shall give such bonds as the Board of Trustees may direct. The said Board shall also appoint the professors and tutors, prescribing the number and determining the amount of their respective salaries. They shall also appoint such

other officers, agents or employees, as the wants of the University may from time to time demand, in all cases fixing their compensation. All meetings of said Board may be called in such manner as the Trustees shall prescribe; and nine of them so assembled shall constitute a quorum to do business, and a less number may adjourn from time to time.

Section 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the University shall consist of the following departments, and such others as the Board of Trustees may establish—first, normal; second, collegiate; third, theological; fourth, law; fifth, medicine; sixth, agriculture.

Section 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the immediate government of the several departments, subject to the control of the Trustees, shall be entrusted to their respective faculties, but the Trustees shall regulate the course of instruction, prescribe, with the advice of the professors, the necessary text books, confer such degrees, and grant such diplomas, as are usually conferred and granted in other Universities.

Section 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the Board of Trustees shall have the power to remove any professor or tutor or other officers connected with the institution, when, in their judgment, the interests of the University shall require it.

Section 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the Board of Trustees shall publish an annual report, making an exhibit of the affairs of the University.

Section 9. *And be it further enacted*, That no misnomer of the said corporation shall defeat or annul any donation, gift, grant, devise, or bequest, to or from the said corporation.

Section 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the corporation shall not employ its funds or income, or any part thereof, in banking operations or for any purpose or object other than those expressed in the first section of this act; and that nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as to prevent Congress from altering, amending, or appealing the same.

Approved March 2, 1867.

(14 Stat. L., 438.)

By the Act of June 16, 1882, (22 Stat. L. 104) the Trustees conveyed to the United States a square of ground bounded by

Pomeroy, Four-and-a-half, College and Sixth Streets, containing eleven acres, to be used as a public park under the superintendence of the United States in consideration of which all taxes and penalties then due the District of Columbia were remitted, and the property of the University, so long as used for the purposes set forth in its charter, exempted from taxation.

By resolution of both Houses of Congress, August 28, 1890, (26 Stat. L. 678), the Librarian of Congress, and of the Senate and House of Representatives, and the Librarian of the Department of Justice were authorized and directed to deliver to the University as a gift for the law department one copy of such duplicate law books as were in the respective libraries.

FIRST MEETING OF THE INCORPORATORS

Washington, District of Columbia,
March 19th, A. D. 1867.

Pursuant to notice the First (1st) meeting of the Corporators of Howard University was held at the residence of Rev. C. B. Boynton, No. 422 N Street, this day, at 6 P. M.

Present

Rev. C. B. Boynton, D. D.	Major General O. O. Howard
Hon. S. C. Pomeroy	Rev. D. B. Nichols
Rev. B. F. Morris	Rev. E. W. Robinson
H. A. Brewster, Esq.	James B. Johnson, Esq.
Wm. G. Finney, Esq.	Dr. S. L. Loomis
E. M. Cushman	

Prayer was offered by Rev. E. W. Robinson.

The first named corporator Hon. S. C. Pomeroy, not having then arrived, Genl. O. O. Howard was appointed Temporary Chairman, and E. M. Cushman, Secretary, pro. tem.

The Chair, by request, then read the Charter of Howard University, as first printed, stating that slight modifications were subsequently made. Whereupon, Dr. S. L. Loomis moved,

"That due notice having been given to each and all of the corporators, and a majority being here assembled, we accept the Charter granted by Congress for Howard University." Carried.

On motion of Dr. Boynton a Board of Trustees was then elected, each nomination for the same being voted on separately, as follows, viz:

Board of Trustees

Hon. Saml. C. Pomeroy

Rev. Charles B. Boynton

Genl. Oliver O. Howard

Hon. B. C. Cook

J. B. Hutchinson, Esq.

Rev. B. F. Morris

Wm. G. Finney, Esq.

E. M. Cushman, Esq.

Rev. E. W. Robinson

James B. Johnson, Esq.

Genl. Chas. H. Howard

H. A. Brewster, Esq.

Rev. D. B. Nichols

R. H. Stevens, Esq.

Dr. H. Barber

W. F. Bascom, Esq.

Dr. S. L. Loomis

On motion of Hon. S. C. Pomeroy, the Rev. Chas. B. Boynton, D. D., was elected President of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Boynton accepted the office with brief, pertinent remarks.

On motion of Rev. B. F. Morris, E. M. Cushman, Esq., was elected Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

On motion of Genl. O. O. Howard, Genl. George W. Balloch was elected a Trustee; and on motion of H. A. Brewster, Esq., Genl. Balloch was also elected Treasurer of Howard University. Hon. S. C. Pomeroy moved that the Secretary be instructed to file with the Secretary of the Interior a copy of the Act of Incorporation of Howard University, with a list of the Corporators; notice of their acceptance of the Charter, and of their organization under the same. Adopted.

Dr. S. L. Loomis moved that Resolution no. 1 be adopted. (see file, with slight amendment as noted.) Carried.

The following is Resolution no. 1 as adopted.

"Resolved,—That every person elected to any official position in Howard University shall be a member of some Evangelical Church."

Genl. Howard submitted sundry remarks in regard to certain property situated in Washington, D. C., and said to be held by Trustees for similar purposes as Howard University, suggesting the desirableness, and feasibility of a cooperative or united effort in the use of said property.

Subject deferred for further consultation with parties interested.

Also relative to a certain fund termed the "Avery Fund," in same manner, and for like purposes, held in, or near, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Whereupon, and on motion of Dr. Loomis, Genl. O. O. Howard was appointed a committee to correspond with the Trustees of said "Avery Fund" with a view to an appropriation from it for Howard University.

On motion of James B. Johnson, Esq., a committee of three (3) was appointed to prepare a Code of By-Laws.

By nomination of H. A. Brewster, Esq., the following gentlemen were elected, as a Committee on By-Laws:

Dr. Chas. B. Boynton

Jas. B. Johnson, Esq.

Dr. S. L. Loomis

Rev. D. B. Nichols and E. M. Cushman were added to this committee on motion of Dr. Loomis, who also offered the following Resolution, viz:

"Resolved, That Genl. George W. Balloch, Treasurer of Howard University, be instructed to lease the property now occupied by said University, situated near the North end of Seventh (7th) Street, for the sum of Twelve Hundred Dollars, (\$1200) per annum; said lease to bear date January 1st, 1867." Adopted.

On motion of Rev. D. B. Nichols, it was

"Resolved: That the Normal Department of the Howard University be formally opened with appropriate exercises on Saturday the 23 inst. at 4 oc. P. M. and that a Committee of Three (3) be appointed to make the requisite arrangements therefor."

On motion, Rev. D. B. Nichols, Genl. O. O. Howard, and Rev. B. F. Morris were appointed said committee.

On motion,

Adjourned to meet at the same place, on Monday the 25th inst. at 7 oc. P. M.

Attest,

E. M. Cushman,

Secretary.

GENERAL COMMITTEE UPON THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL

At the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees held June 1, 1915, Justice Peelle by direction of the Board appointed President Newman, Secretary George W. Cook, and Treasurer Edward L. Parks a committee upon the "Fiftieth Anniversary of Howard University" to report at the next semi-annual meeting of the Board to be held February 4, 1916.

At the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Trustees held February 4, 1916, the Committee upon the Fiftieth Anniversary reported through President Newman and recommended that

- I. The committee be authorized to form a larger committee by adding to its own number a representative from each department and one from the Alumni Association.
- II. The coming Charter Day' March 2, 1916, be used by this committee in setting before the students and the public the general plans of the coming celebration in 1917.
- III. The Record for March 1916 be devoted to such matter as may help promote the celebration.
- IV. The Semi-Centennial celebration extend from March 2, 1917 to and include the Commencement of 1917.

The report was approved and recommendations adopted. After some discussion Justice Peelle and Mr. Andrew F. Hilyer were added to the committee.

Each Faculty was asked by President Newman to elect one representative and by reports made to his office, the following is the committee as finally constituted.

Justice Stanton J. Peelle.

President S. M. Newman.

Secretary George W. Cook.

Treasurer Edward L. Parks.

Mr. Andrew F. Hilyer.

Prof. D. Butler Pratt, The School of Theology.

Prof. D. S. Lamb, The School of Medicine.

Dean B. F. Leighton, The School of Law.

Prof. W. V. Tunnell, The College of Arts and Sciences.

Prof. T. W. Turner, The Teachers College.

Prof. H. A. Haynes, The School of Manual Arts and
Applied Sciences.
Miss C. Beatrice Lewis, The Conservatory of Music.
Miss Lula Allan, The Library Staff.
Prof. Walter Dyson, The Commercial College.
Miss S. Annie Barker, The Academy.
Mr. Robert A. Pelham, General Alumni Association.

CHARTER DAY MARCH 2, 1916

In accordance with the vote of the Trustees a meeting was held in the Rankin Chapel on March 2, 1916, at 8 P. M. at which addresses and suggestions were made by President Newman, Justice Peelle, Dr. Waring, Dr. Grimke, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Hilyer, Dean Clark, Dr. Pratt, Dean Miller and Secretary Cook. Many valuable things were said which will be helpful to the General Committee when it meets.

The Great Question

How can trustees, officers, teachers, students and friends unite to make the celebration of the Semi-Centennial of Howard University so worthy that it shall be not only a delightful climax to the work of the past half century but a prophecy of the half century to come with all its possibilities of increased usefulness. May we get courage for the toil and struggle of the future, and a vision of the large part which Howard is to take in the development of our country! May the wisdom and devotion of all be greatly quickened by the celebration of our Semi-Centennial!



Important Notice to Graduates

¶ In order that the University may reach all its graduates and former students with the least possible loss of time and material an effort is being made by the President's office to collect the very latest addresses.

¶ If each one who receives a return postal will fill in the blanks and return it at once, it will enable the University to send out such matter as is prepared for the Semi-Centennial and keep our graduates informed as to the progress of our plans.

¶ The postals are being sent out alphabetically as rapidly as they can be prepared.

¶ If graduates do not receive them they will know that we do not have their correct addresses and should send us word.